

working to reverse or counter OPEC's production cutbacks which began last spring and which have let the prices spiral get out of hand. As I said, the Administration should have been pressuring OPEC countries five or six months ago to reduce prices. I concluded my remarks in Committee by stating that the American people are now stuck with higher prices for gasoline, diesel fuel and heating oil for at least the next half year because "the Administration was asleep at the switch" and didn't take energetic and prudent actions. If there is any blame to be distributed at the Federal level, the American people should know it falls on the Administration.

NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY
AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise in opposition to the Nuclear Waste Amendments Act of 2000. This bill will establish the largest nuclear waste shipping program in U.S. history. It also endangers the health of our citizens and the environmental integrity of our lands. I cannot in good conscience support a bill that undermines the welfare of our people to provide the expeditious disposal of nuclear waste.

This bill continues to support interim storage of nuclear waste and does not provide the utilities the choice of interim storage in Nevada so that they can begin to remove waste from reactors and Department of Defense sites around the country by the year 2003. Pursuant to this measure, nuclear waste would be shipped to Yucca Mountain before the permanent construction of a repository. We should not place the lives of innocent people in jeopardy prior to the completion of a permanent repository. The safety of human life should be our number one priority not the premature removal of extremely dangerous nuclear waste.

Furthermore, this bill if passed will initiate the shipment of nuclear waste shipments with extraordinary amounts of radioactivity by rail and truck. This activity will potentially expose 50 million people to high levels of radiation for over 30 years. Our Nation's localities are not trained nor equipped to deal with a serious radioactive contamination event. Response teams in our nation's hospitals, police forces, firemen, and schools would be placed in an unfortunate position resulting in human suffering. We should not support a bill that does not provide for the training, equipment, and study needed to give the public reasonable assurances that their children will be safe from any possibility of radiation exposure due to a nuclear waste accident.

This bill also seeks to undermine the EPA's ability to set strong radiation standards. The measure delays the proposed standard of 15 milirems for a year until the next President takes office. The EPA can only issue a standard before the year's end if the Nuclear Regulatory Commission [NRC] agrees; however, the NRC proposes standards that do not provide adequate drinking water protections.

Finally, the selection of the Yucca Mountain site as the nuclear repository was a poor choice. Yucca Mountain happens to be located in an active earthquake zone. An earthquake registering 5.6 on the Richter scale in Yucca Mountain caused \$1 million worth of damage to an Energy Department field office near the repository site. Imagine what would happen if nuclear waste was stored in the mountain. It is even possible for radiation to contaminate drinking water for the region for years to come.

For these important reasons, I cannot support the Nuclear Waste Amendments Act of 2000. The people of this country deserve better.

HONORING AVA DONER

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor Ava Doner, a pioneer in business from my district. Ava recently passed away after a long and illustrious career as president and founder of Engineering Associates.

Ava, a leading figure in the Los Angeles business community, led the way for women for over 50 years, opening doors of opportunity in fields from drafting and design to all disciplines of engineering support services and transportation. Ava was always available to assist young, working women. She helped establish organizations to encourage the growth and development of aspiring women entrepreneurs and found time to support them during her entire career.

She was an active member of the business community and her efforts did not go unnoticed. Some of the commendations she received during her distinguished career included the 1999 Small Business Administration Woman Business Advocate of the Year, the City of Los Angeles Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Los Angeles Woman Business Owner of the Year. She was also the first recipient of the first Women's Referral Service "Ava Doner Pioneer Award," named for her in recognition of her contributions and leadership as a woman pioneer in business.

Ava Doner touched the lives of many women in the working world, leaving a lasting impression upon the business community. Ava will be dearly missed, but her legacy will live on.

WILLIAM CRAWFORD WAS TRULY
A HERO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask that we all pause a moment to remember a true American hero, Mr. William Crawford. Though he is gone, he will live on in the hearts of all who knew him and be remembered for long years by many who didn't.

During World War II, William fought for our country while he served in the Army. Mr. Crawford's bravery as an Army private in World War II led to him becoming the first of Pueblo's four Medal of Honor recipients. Racing through heavy gunfire and detonating hand grenades on enemy gun sites, Mr. Crawford exemplified bravery. In 1945, he was captured by German troops and was presumed dead. As a result, his father received the Medal of Honor on his behalf. However, later that year, Mr. Crawford was rescued from the German troops. In 1947, he re-enlisted in the Army and served until 1967.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Crawford was a model American, embodying patriotism, strength, gentleness and service throughout his lifetime. William will be missed by all of us. Hopefully, we can learn from the example that William Crawford has set.

MARCH SCHOOL OF THE MONTH

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2000

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to name Lawrence Middle School in Lawrence as the School of the Month in the fourth congressional district for March 2000. Lawrence Middle School principal is Dr. Mark Kavarsky, and Superintendent of Schools is Dr. Paul Kelleher.

I chose Lawrence Middle as the March School of the Month because the school provides educational activities before school, during school and after school. I'm working on an amendment to this year's education bill to bolster after school programs, and Lawrence is a perfect model of how to help kids learn all day.

The mission of the Lawrence Public Schools is to ensure all learners reach their highest individual potential, through an academically rigorous educational system that inspires lifelong learning; focuses on creative, student-centered teaching and learning; and enables all to possess the confidence and abilities to meet life's challenges.

Lawrence Middle teaches 900 children in grades 6, 7 and 8. Two years ago I was the guest of honor—and first elected official—at Lawrence's Long Island Middle School Forum, where representatives from the middle schools in the 4th congressional district debated and discussed legislative issues.

When I visited Lawrence, I was impressed with how knowledgeable our kids are about the legislative process. It's vital we encourage government participation at such a young age.

In addition to their top academic activities, the youth at Lawrence Middle are civic-minded, participating in the Service Learning Club where the youth collect toiletries, clothes and other items to give to the homeless. An innovative way Lawrence teaches the kids about wastefulness is "Wrap It Up"—when students collect and wrap all leftover food from the cafeteria and other school events. This food is then forwarded to local food kitchens to provide for the needy in the Long Island community.